

**REMARKS**

Applicants are amending their claims in order to further clarify the definition of various aspects of the invention to be considered on the merits in the above-identified application. Specifically, Applicants are setting forth the subject matter of claims 9 and 10 in independent form.

In addition, Applicants are adding new claims 17-25 to the application. Claim 17, dependent on claim 10, recites that the incorporating includes compounding said nitrogen-containing tricyclic compound or the quaternary ammonium compound or the pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof with a carrier. Claims 18 and 22 recite subject matter expressly set forth in claim 5, but are dependent respectively on claims 10 and 9. Claims 19 and 23 recite subject matter expressly set forth in claim 6, but are dependent respectively on claims 10 and 9. Claims 20 and 24 expressly recite subject matter in claim 7, but are dependent respectively on claims 10 and 9; and claims 21 and 25 recite subject matter expressly set forth in claim 8, but are dependent respectively on claims 10 and 9.

The Restriction Requirement set forth in the Office Action mailed January 10, 2007, in the above-identified application, is noted. Applicants respectfully elect the Group IV claims, which the Examiner contends are drawn to a method for the prevention and/or treatment of asthma which comprises administering an effective amount of a nitrogen-containing tricyclic acid compound represented by formula (I), capable of suppressing the function of a GPCR molecule. For clarification of the record, original claim 10 as considered by the Examiner in the Office Action mailed January 10, 2007 recited use of the compound or quaternary ammonium salt or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof for the manufacture of an agent for prevention and/or treatment of asthma, and present claim 10 recites a method of

manufacturing an agent for prevention and/or treatment of asthma. Applicants' election of the Group IV claims (claims 9 and 10) is without traverse.

Noting that claims 17-25 are dependent upon either claim 10 or claim 9, it is respectfully submitted that these claims 17-25 fall within the Group IV claims and are to be considered on the merits in the above-identified application in light of election of the Group IV claims.

The requirement for Applicants to choose a single, specific GPR4 nucleic acid from SEQ ID NOS: 12, 14 and 18, or a single, specific polypeptide from SEQ ID NOS: 11, 13 and 17, set forth in Item 2 bridging pages 3 and 4 of the Office Action mailed January 10, 2007, is noted. Applicants respectfully elect a single polypeptide having the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 11, for prosecution on the merits in the present application.

Contentions by the Examiner on page 4 of the Office Action mailed January 10, 2007, with respect to the same or corresponding special technical feature in Groups I-VII, are noted. Applicants do not agree with such contentions by the Examiner. It is respectfully submitted that the present election is being made without traverse in order to facilitate proceedings in connection with the above-identified application.

In view of the foregoing, entry of the present amendments, and examination of at least the Group IV claims on the merits, in due course, are respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Authorization is herein given to charge any shortage in the fees,

including extension of time fees and excess claim fees, to Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Case No. 506.44792X00), and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William I. Solomon", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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